UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

PARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY

Address Reply to:
NAVAL BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY
NAVAL SUPPLY CENTER
OAKLAND 4, CALIFORNIA

18 November 1950

Dear Joshua,

Got both your letter and the reprints. Thanks.

The reason for not naming the organism in the letter is the stupid, short-sighted, ridiculous security regulations which state that any letter containing the name must be classified. Rather than attempt to get into all sorts of administrative tangles, I prefer to be "cryptic."

Here's an interesting story on the TPTZ paper and your question whether the technic works with other species. Unknown to us, Huddleson's group at East Lansing had followed the same line of research. Their results were "published" in the annual report (1950) of the School ofVMedicine of Michigan State College to which report I refer to you for the complete story. It (TPTZ) can be used with a host of species and appears to be a valid criterion for differentiating strains. But this part is the kicker: somebody and we do not know if it was Huddleson sent us the report and noted that the date of the report preceded the publication date on our note to J.B. We think it could be one of two things: either they feel we stole their stuff because our procedure was absolutely the same or they are just showing us how much more work they did to establish the same point. At any rate, we never heard of the report; neither our nor the U library contained a copy; and no one we know seems to have seen the report.

We have been able to repeat the gigas work with "our bug" and it seems satisfactory. I'll have Won give me the details and his cautions, etc. and mail them myself. Otherwise, we'll run into security again.

A stored culture going avirulent means to me that the selecting of colonies at random from a plate streaked with the culture yields smooth solonies (clones) which will not kill.

How about some suggestions on this problem which has become very important to me? We have tried acriflavine (a la Braun in Brucella) and various salts to detect dissociants with "our bug." It has been a continuous disappointment in that the results are erratic and non-reproducible. The rough clones may or may not agglutinate with acriflavine and salts under all conditions of concentrations, incubation temperatures, and duration of exposure to the agglutinating agent. How about some agents which will agglutinate non-smooth types?

Thanks again for everything.

Sincerely,
Ed